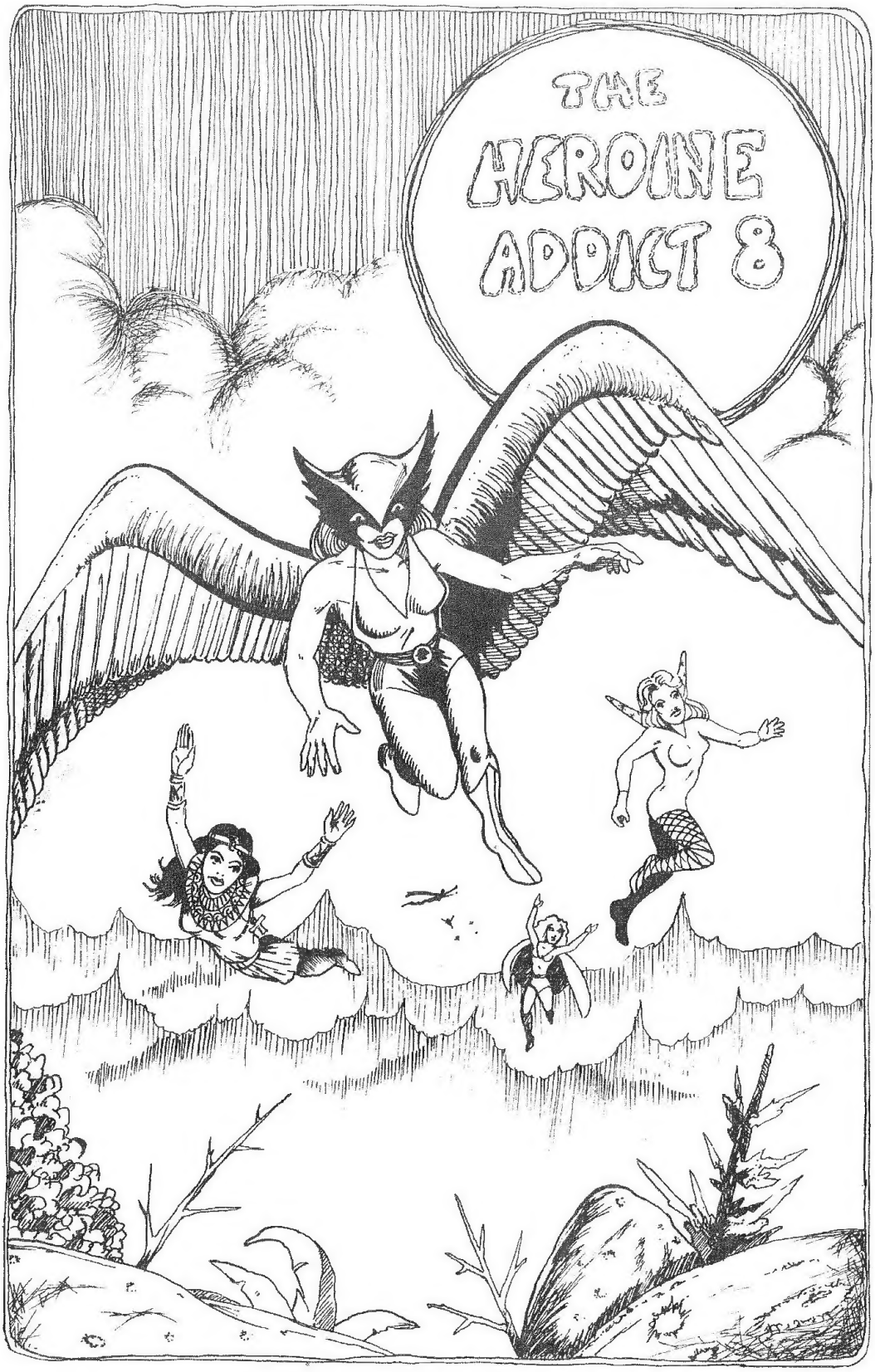
THE
HEROINE
ADDICT 8

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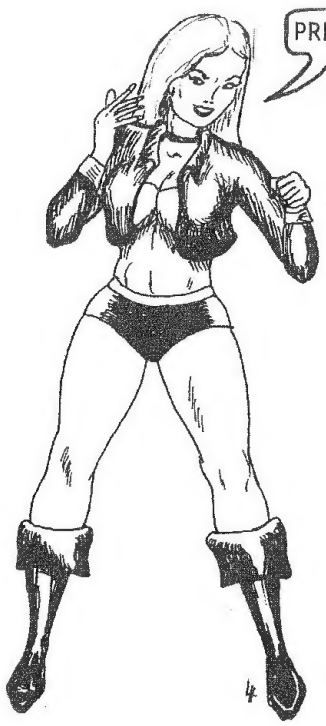
Naturally we cannot guarantee to publish any unsolicited material, and we cannot return any contributions unless they are accompanied by self-addressed, stamped return envelopes of sufficient size. - A.T.

Letters to the editor are welcome!



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AQUAGIRL

by

Scott Gibson

It was a relatively quiet day in Atlantis and outlying areas. Aquaman and Aqualad were on patrol when a jetliner crash-landed in the sea. With the aid of swordfish, the Sea King and his young ally opened the side of the huge plane and helped all of the trapped passengers to safety. Later, while surrounded by reporters, photographers and the grateful victims, Aquaman received praise and congratulations, while Aqualad stood quietly in the background. Then, treated to more of the same in Atlantis where the Atlanteans shouted praise to their king, Aqualad wandered off unnoticed and unappreciated. Suddenly, a beautiful young girl leaped from the shadows and planted a big, fat kiss on A-Lad's face. "I think you're wonderful!" she told him.

Thus it was that Aquagirl swam into the Aquaman comic and became a regular member of the Aqua-Family, in issue #33, June, 1967. But her debut was not that of a super-heroine; rather, that of a super-mischief maker. Following the kiss that she gave Aqualad, she convinced him to strike out on his own, telling him that he could never be appreciated while under the wing of Aquaman. Depressed at his recent lack of attention, A-lad quickly agreed, and informed Mera and Aquaman of his intentions. Mera was enraged at the turn of events, but Aquaman quietly conceded that perhaps Aqualad was right.

So the two young adventurers swam away from Atlantis, determined to take care of themselves. Their first stop was at an undersea discoteque called 'Dr. Dorsal's Deep Six.' The 'dance hall' was actually built for 'land-teens,' for all of the other kids and Doc Dorsal himself wore oxygen tanks. Aqualad and Aquagirl, being water-breathers, created quite a stir. After the other teens had left, Dorsal revealed to the young Atlanteans that he, too, was a water-breather, from another dimension. As he showed them his hidden laboratory, he tricked them into being hypnotized and placed them under his total 'mental-domination.'

When the other teenagers returned the next day, Aqualad and Tula (Aquagirl's real name) led them all in the robbery of a seaside circus, under the pretension that "it (was) all for kicks, and the money would be returned later." Naturally, Doc Dorsal kept the loot, instead. This triggered something in Aqualad's mind, and he protested. The evil Doc gave the underwater titan another "dose" of his hypnotic ray, which squelched Aqualad into submission once more. Oddly, Tula did not need a second dose; she was not perturbed by the robbery at all. Nor was she perturbed by their next robbery aboard an ocean liner two nights later.

During the course of that holdup, someone snapped photos of the culprits. Police, recognizing Aqualad among the robbers, called in Aquaman. Shocked and upset by the news, the Sea King exacted a promise from the police to let him try to solve the case first. Disguising himself as an old shell collector, Aquaman was able to infiltrate the teen gang and find Doc Dorsal's secret hideaway. But Dorsal quickly caught on

to the "Shellpicker's" ruse, and told Aqualad and Tula that the old man was a spy. Aquagirl, angry at being betrayed, shoved the "old man" into a mine field, causing several explosions. "Aqua-chick! You've killed him!" gasped Aqualad. "He deserved it. He was a spy!" retorted Aquagirl cold-bloodedly.

But, upon investigating the body and discovering that it was really Aquaman, the teenagers were shocked out of the hypnotic trance, and they determined to make Doc Dorsal pay for his crimes. Aqualad and Tula swam to the Doc's lab, but Dorsal managed to escape back to his own dimension. Naturally, the final pages disclosed that Aquaman had not been killed in the explosion; only stunned. While the other teens were all paroled in their parent's custody, A-Lad and Tula were paroled in Aquaman's. Aquagirl cried and said she guessed she was just a foolish female. Then the trio returned to Atlantis.

The story, punctuated throughout with the inane, "with-it" dialogue that editor Kashdan always gave his teenage characters was perhaps the singularly worst Aquaman story ever. The plot was only a superficial piece of red carpet rolled out to welcome the new member of the underwater family. It wasn't a very good initial appearance for Tula, anyhow. The story portrayed her as an immature, devious, selfish, easily-corrupted juvenile delinquent. Whereas it was made obvious that Aqualad was never quite as willing to do evil, Aquagirl had no qualms even about killing someone.

Very little about Aquagirl's background was revealed, either here or in any subsequent story. We did learn that Aqualad had known her for many years, and that she was an orphan. Where she lived in Atlantis before this caper wasn't clear--although she obviously moved into Aquaman's palace to live with the royal family at the end of the tale. Tula, alone of the underwater super-family, had no special powers. Aquaman (and Aqualad, to some extent) were specially trained for fighting and had control of sea-creatures; Mera and Aquababy both possessed 'hard-water powers.' But Tula had only her wits and average strength to rely upon.

The beautiful teen-nymph returned in AQUAMAN #36, following a lettercol page in #35 devoted entirely to pleas to see more of Aquagirl. Sadly, her encore performance was limited to half-a-dozen or so panels, and she took no part in the action, though both Mera and Aquababy played large roles.

Aquagirl was not seen again until Dick Giordano assumed editorship of the book. When the famous 9-issue 'search-for-Mera' serial began in #40, Tula was on hand. She was the first to reach Aquaman and Aqualad's sides after Mera was abducted, and she took charge of Aquababy while the Sea King went in search of his wife. In #41, she made only a single panel appearance, but it was enough to reassure readers that the titaness had not been forgotten and would eventually figure prominently in the adventure.

This was exactly to be the case. For in #42, with Aquaman still away on his search and Aqualad injured and in the hospital, Tula was left as head of the royal family. Governing duties, however, fell to Aquaman's deputy chief, Narkran, who, with each passing day, proved to be more and more of a tyrant. Aquagirl, aware both of Narkran's treacherous activities and of a building rebel force trying to oust the deputy chief, was left with feeling of helplessness, unable to stop Narkran or to help her fellow Atlanteans. To top it all off,

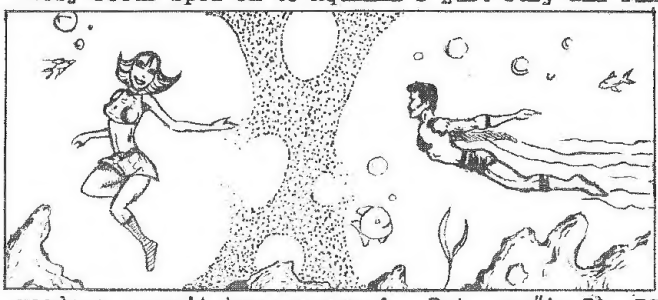
Aqualad, delirious from his injuries, had escaped from the hospital and gone in search of Aquaman.

Aquagirl didn't reappear until AQUAMAN #46, where she managed to locate the group of rebels bent on driving the tyrannical Narkran from the throne. At first she attacked them with ferocity and verve, proving at long last that she could handle herself in physical situations quite well. Tula pleaded with the revolutionaries, asking them to wait for Aquaman's return, but they were determined to attack the palace right away.

Unaware that Aquaman had by then found Mera and was returning to Atlantis, Mupo, leader of the revolutionists, launched the attack, in A-MAN #47. Narkran, having spied on Aquagirl and seen her with the rebels, labeled her "one of them," and had her taken prisoner. As the battle raged below his palace window, the tyrant forced Tula out onto the balcony, his sword jabbing her in the side.

The battlers, seeing Aquagirl in mortal danger, ceased their fight as Narkran threatened to kill the girl. But Tula, feeling his grasp on her loosen, made a desperate lunge for freedom. But she was not quick enough--Narkran stabbed her, wounding her badly. Mupo grabbed her limp form as it floated to the ground, and rushed Aquagirl to a doctor. Fuming, he swam back and fought his way into the palace, and began slugging it out with Narkran.

Issue #48 was the second and final time that Aquagirl would be cover-featured in this title. In the truly suspenseful and exciting climax to the year-and-a-half-long saga, Aquaman and Mera found and rescued Aqualad and the trio raced to Atlantis, where riots had broken out again in full force. Readers were assured that Tula had been treated for her wounds and would survive before the story focus sped on to Aquaman's just fury and final triumph over his wife's abductors. After everything was put to rights, Aquagirl stepped in long enough to appear in the final, "family" panel, as the story concluded.



It seemed only natural that Tula's wound would keep her out of the action for some time, so when AQUAMAN #'s 49 and 50 passed without her, readers weren't too concerned. But, as #'s 51, 52 and 53 were published sans the young titaness, fans began to be worried. Then, suddenly, she reappeared in a most unexpected place--another Giordano-edited title, TEEN TITANS. She and Aqualad even made the cover of #30, beating out all of the other titans, including such stalwarts as Robin and Wonder Girl! The story, "Some Call it Noise!" actually focused entirely on Aqualad, as he captured a madman. Tula was only along as decoration and to add to A-Lad's problems when she disappeared in a dazed condition, heading inland, although remaining out-of-water for more than an hour would kill her. This naturally heightened the suspense, as Aqualad saved her only in the nick of time.

But though the two were chummy in TT #30, in their next appearance (AQUAMAN #55), they had something of a lover's spat, and Aquagirl decided that perhaps she should find herself another boyfriend. Oddly enough, this was the last time (to date) that the pair has ever been seen together.

In A-MAN #56 (the last issue), Aquagirl was featured in her own 2-page solo story. She saved a small water-breathing boy from being pulled into the vacuum-like force of an undersea cave. Called the Cave of Death, the place had been shrouded in legend for years, and no one who entered there had ever returned. This tale was apparently a prelude to a longer adventure, since the closing caption said that someday the secrets of the cave would be revealed.

This was Aquagirl's last appearance. Though Aqualad returned in TEEN TITANS #40, he had a new girlfriend and no mention was made of Tula. So, apparently their fight in AQUAMAN #55 was as serious as it seemed.

Now that Aquaman occupies the 12 leading pages of **ADVENTURE COMICS**, the way seems clear for Aquagirl's return. Whether Editor Joe Orlando will choose to include her in future A-Man stories is currently unclear--perhaps he feels (and with some justification) that the Sea King's supporting cast is already too large to be easily manipulated (note the total absence of Aquababy and the diminished use of both Aqualad and Mera).

Tula has actually played the role of "sidekick" and girl-friend much more than the role of heroine. Since we see so little of Aqualad these days, it seems only natural that Aquagirl wouldn't be around either. Aquaman himself is already married. Since the opportunity for Tula to be "girl-friend" just hasn't arisen, (and with Mera on hand, the opportunity to be "heroine" isn't likely to surface either) it would appear that A-girl has reached the end of the line. Only Neptune (and Joe Orlando) knows for sure.

* * *

Well, what do you know--extra space at the end of my column. Unheard of! But since it's here, I'll grab the opportunity to remind you 'Heroine-Addicts' that Brenda Starr's wedding day is January 15. That's right, people! Your favorite girl reporter (or second-favorite) is finally marrying her mystery man, Basil St. John!

Unfortunately, we of the THA staff have all but ignored the heroines of the comic strips, who are as important characters as any. Perhaps this upcoming event, which is of breath-taking magnitude, will bring the strip-heroines more into the limelight. Ms. Starr first met Basil St. John in 1945, and he has been popping into and out of her life ever since. No one ever really thought the day would come when Brenda would finally land her Mystery Man--but creator Mrs. Dale Messick has promised that January 15 is the big day. Even if you aren't a Brenda Starr fan, I advise you to pick up a copy of some newspaper which carries the strip that day; it's bound to become a collector's item.

In the meantime, let me wish all of you Best Returns of the Holiday Season. May you all enjoy very Merry Christmases and have yourselves Happy (Heroine!) New Years.

(As always, I invite comment on this column--be it suggestions, critiques, words of praise or large cash contributions--Scott Gibson, 2711 South Pinehurst Drive, Evergreen, Colorado 80439.)

Heroine Hotline

SATANA GETS HER OWN BOOK-MARVEL PREMIER #27, FOR ONE ISSUE AGAINST the DANSKER, A TRUELY EVIL BEING FROM HER TROUBLED PAST. I RECOMMEND THIS STORY FOR HEROINE ADDICTS AND SATANA FANS. A GOOD STORY, ART-WISE!

THIS TIME AROUND WE'RE DOWN TO ONLY 91+ HEROINES, BUT 9 LADIES STAR IN THEIR OWN BOOKS: JOSIE, SATANA, RED SONJA, VON BLUDD, LOIS LANE, ARACHNE, TIGRA, WONDER WOMAN, AND WINNIE-the-WITCH! *Mercy Van Vlack* 1939 Township Line Rd.* RD.#3 Norristown Pa.* 19401*

WONDER WOMAN ON TELEVISION! A FUN AND EXCITING MOVIE STARRING LYNDA CARTER, CLORIS LEACHMAN, FANNIE FLAGG & STELLA STEVENS. THIS IS DEFINITELY A CANDIDATE FOR OPERATION DELUGE. A WELL-DONE AMAZON ADVENT!

THE FURTHER ADVENTURES of BARONESS VON BLUDD, A SENSITIVE VAMPIRESS. HOST of SCARY TALES (CH) #3

TIGRA IS BACK! MARVEL CHILL-ERS #3 FINALLY! The CAT-LADY IN HER OWN BOOK, STRIKES AT THE RATPACK & A RATESS!

WINNIE the WITCH IN GHOSTLY HAUNTS #49 (CH) DREAMS AND WOLVES

SUPERMAN FAMILY (DC) #175. LOIS LANE TAKES STEPHANIE EDGE ON A GUIDED TOUR of REPORTING AND DANGER WITH the X-RAY MAN-BOMB PLUS... SUPERGIRL and HER "BIG BROTHER!?

MARVEL FEATURE #2. A WANDERING WARRIOR WOMAN FABLE ON BLOOD & UNCERTAINTIES of RED SONJA!

MIDNIGHT TALES #16 (CH) ANOTHER ISSUE WITH HOST ARACHNE AND HEROIC QUEEN AMBIA! PLUS-HARPIES!

ARACHNE

JOSIE & the PUSSYCATS #86 (ARCHIE) STILL OUT of COSTUME! MUSIC MAYHEM WITH MELODY...

WONDER WOMAN #221 (DC) HEROLD FOE DR. CYBER BACK WITH PRINCESS ELAA TO MAKE DIANA "LOSE FACE"!

GHOST RIDER #15 (M) KAREN PAGE VERSUS THE ORB!

MARTINE TURNS INTO A VAMPIRE & I FEAR (#31, M) WE'VE LOST HER... ALMOST!

THE HOUSE of YANG #3 (CH) CHALLENGED BY THE EVIL EVAKU AND the NINZAS!

DR. STRANGE #11 (M) CLEA WARNS HER LOVE, NO REAL ACTION YET!

BETTY DEAN IS IN INVADERS #4 (M) JOINING THE FIGHT TO RESCUE CHURCHILL IN WW II ADVENTURE.

JILL MALDEN CAPTURED & IKEI YASHIDA IN DOOMSDAY †1 (CH) #3

SHEESA! KA-ZAR #13 (M) DOOM TO THE EVIL QUEEN of the DEAD!

WARLOCK #10 (M) DEATH of the MATRIARCH, HISTORY, CHAOS, AND GAMORA.

D.C. LIMITED COLLECTOR'S EDITION #43... CHRISTMAS CAPERS WITH WONDER WOMAN AND LOIS LANE IN REPRINTS. (O)

BATGIRL IN BATMAN FAMILY #3 (DC) W/ROBIN, & REPRINT of A BATWOMAN GOLDEN AGE QUEST.

IRONFIST #3 (M) MISTY KNIGHT FIGHTS BACK!

SWAMP THING #21 (DC) CELLANTH FREES THE FREAKS TO DIE FROM SOLUS

CASSANDRA CRAFT SUMMONS The PHANTOM STRANGER (#41, DC) WHILE A LEGION of BLACK ORCHIDS MEET THE REAL Ms COY! WITH BONNIE KUHN!

BLACK CANARY IS BACK IN JLA #127 (DC) AND NEXT ISSUE... WONDER WOMAN!

The OUTSIDERS IN FIRST ISSUE (DC) SPECIAL #10 MIGHTY MARY ON THEIR SIDE!

KORG 70,000 B.C. (DC) #4 - OL' SNAKE HEAD, MEDUSA, IN CAVE MAN TIMES?!

IN The INHUMANS #3 (M), MEDUSA USES HER TRESSES TO MEND, NOT MENACE! CRYSTAL CAMEO, TOO!

The letters Mean:
(G)- Gold Key
(M) - Marvel Comics
(DC)- NATIONAL
(CH) Charlton
(B) Black & White
(O) oversize

CLAW #5 (DC) MLRISSA IS THE LIFE ENERGY of THE ORACLE, AND EVERY TIME CUT DOWN, TWO RISE IN HER PLACE!

DC SPECIAL #20, The EXCELLENT ORIGIN of KATMATUI - FEMALE GREEN LANTERN!

WERE WOLF BY NIGHT #36 (M) MORE of MARVEL'S MADNESS --- TOPAZ ISN'T DEAD AFTER ALL!

DETECTIVE COMICS #455 (DC) HAWKGIRL BACK IN ACTION WITH HUBBY!

TOMB of DRACULA #4 (M) AURORA BRINGS BACK DRAC ONE MORE TIME, TO BATTLE DR. SUN WITH RACHEL V.H.

DUCHESS RAMONA FATALE AS A BLACKHAWK (#244, DC) FOR A DAY, BUT ONLY TO REGAIN HER ISLAND AND PLUNDER!

MARVEL TEAM-UP #41, A WITCH HUNT FOR WANDA! MORE ON The SCARLET WITCH IN: AVENGERS #143 (M) WITH MOON DRAGON & MISS BAXTER AND A REPRINT: GIANT SIZE AVENGERS #5 (M) WITH The WASP AGAINST The ENCHANTRESS!

MADAM KAHN of BEASTS, AND HER TWIN TAKE ON THE PHANTOM #68 (CH)

MARY MARVEL REPRINT IN SHAZAM #22 (DC) "TRITON IN THE TUNNEL"

MARVEL SUPER-HEROES #55 LADY DORMA & A MARIE SEVERIN HULK

AMAZING AD-VENTURES #34 (M) CARMILLA FROST & The KILLRAVEN FAMILY UNDERGO .... CHANGES.

The GREAT GAZOO #14 (CH) A SUNNYSIDE-UP EGG-VENTURE WITH The SPACE GIRL EXPLORER FLAME SPARKLE AND PLUGG, HER TRANSISTORIZED TEAMMATE.

FANTASTIC 4 #166 (M) The INVISIBLE GIRL & CO. LOSE SOME-THING.

WARLORD #1 (DC) TARA the WARRIOR & HER PUPIL CAUGHT BY THE SLAVE TRADERS!

MELANDRA & TANGOR ON THE PLANET TONOS IN TARZAN FAMILY #61 (DC) WITH QUEEN MUTOPHET of EGYPT.

BATMAN #271 (DC) "AMES & I HAVE WORK TO DO!" AND NO PLAY, AS CAROL AMES, PHOTOGRAPHER, AIDS THE DARKNIGHT DETECTIVE.

X-MEN #96 (M) WHAT HAPPENED TO DRAGONFLY? ANYWAY, NOW STORM CONFRONTS The N'GARA AS MOIRA MacTAGGERT IS USHERED IN AS MUTANT-KEEPER.

BEOWULF #5 (DC) GODESS ATHENA, A PRIESTESS SKY-GOD, NANZEE, AND THE ORIGIN of STONEHENGE.

PRETTY PYRA AGAIN AS KAMANDI (#37, DC) MEETS ARNA!

FRANCINE LANGSTROM A VAMPIRE SHE-BAT! BEWITCHED BY BARON TYME IN MAN-BAT #1 (DC)

SPIDEY SUPER-STORIES #14 (M) ORIGIN of SHANNA! SHE AND SPIDEY TEAM-UP AGAINST THE TRAPPER.

THE JOKER #5 (DC) THE ROYAL FLUSH GANG, WITH THE QUEEN of SPADES, RETURNS TO CAUSE MORE TROUBLE.

BEVERLY SWITZLER, A COIN MAIL CLAD MAID, HELPS HOWARD the DUCK THROUGH HIS FIRST ISSUE (M).

MARVEL TRIPLE ACTION #27 REPRINTS AN AVENGERS TALE WITH THE WASP

ALL-STAR COMICS #58 (DC) WITH POWER GIRL, AN EARTH II SUPER-GIRL

SHEENA the SEAMAID, SSSYBILISSS AND BROTHER, AND TIKO, PRESENT The MASTER of KUNG-FU (#36, M) WITH MYSTERIES AND A TASK...

SPACE 1999 #1 (CH) WITH DR. HELENA RUSSELL AND INTELLIGENT SLUGS.

MONICA LYNNE INTO ACTION-JUNGLE ACTION #19 (M) WITH BLACK PANTHER.

PRINCESS PARISA IS MOUSE-SIZED TO SAVE SINBAD IN MARVEL SPOTLIGHT #25

THOR #243 (M) MORE SAD CAPTIONS ON THE LAMENTED SIF. JANE FOSTER REMAINS.

THE CHAMPIONS #2 (M) The BLACK WIDOW LEADS THEM AGAINST HIPPOLYTA AND GANG, ONLY TO LOSE VENUS & HERCULES.

VALKYRIE AND THE DEFENDERS #31 (M) HUSBAND TROUBLES.

LADY SHIVA TAKES ON The KUNG FU FIGHTER (#15, DC) TO AVENGE HER MURDERED SISTER.

CONAN #58 (M) BÉLIT, the WHITE PIRATE QUEEN of THE BLACK COAST, PILOTS THE TIGRESS. ORIGIN NEXT ISSUE.

SKULL the SLAYER #3 (M) ANN GETS A SUPER COSTUME!

SUPERBOY & THE LEGION #214 (DC) SHADOW LASS ON A MISSION / SATURN GIRL SEZ SHRINKING VIOLET IS INSECURE. WHAT ELSE IS NEW!?

DEADLY HANDS OF KUNG FU #19 (M) LOTUS ENDS The SONS of The TIGER (B) TEAM!

THANKS TO CHUCK ALLIGOOD FOR HIS WONDER WOMAN INFO!

CLUB NEWS!

And Other Pertinent Points → → → by Al Tanner, editor

The big news this time is the addition of a very valuable new item to our AHPA equipment. I have obtained a Bohn Rex-Rotary electrostatic copier, and this is going to affect our publishing operation in several important ways.

Most important, it will solve a major problem by giving us a practical means of producing illustrated special-interest stories in limited numbers for those fans who want to order them. The problem has been that offset printing is economically feasible only when at least two or three hundred copies of a zine are printed - and paid for - at once. We will continue, of course, to use offset printing for THA and THE ADVENTURESS, but now we can do our own printing of special-interest extra products, producing electrostatic copies to order!

Soon we will be offering *The Further Adventures Of Shamrock And Pixie* and other stories or strips involving other original adventure heroines for sale not only to our CHFC subscribers, but through other markets as well. In fact, I will be starting to build a mailing list of people who would like to be notified when new material becomes available. If you would like to be included, please drop me a line soon discussing your interests and preferences. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope so I can send you information when it is ready. (I'll use the new copier to produce illustrated fliers for the purpose.)

Each of these extra zines will contain a single story or strip about ten or twelve pages long. The 8½-by-11-inch pages will include appropriate artwork by some of our most talented artists, who will be paid for their work. These zines will be real collector's items in that they will be designed not just to meet the broad interests of comics fandom in general, but to appeal specifically to fans of particular action-suspense aspects of the field. The cost? Probably about $4 per copy, with discounts for multiple orders. Supplementary illos may also be made available.

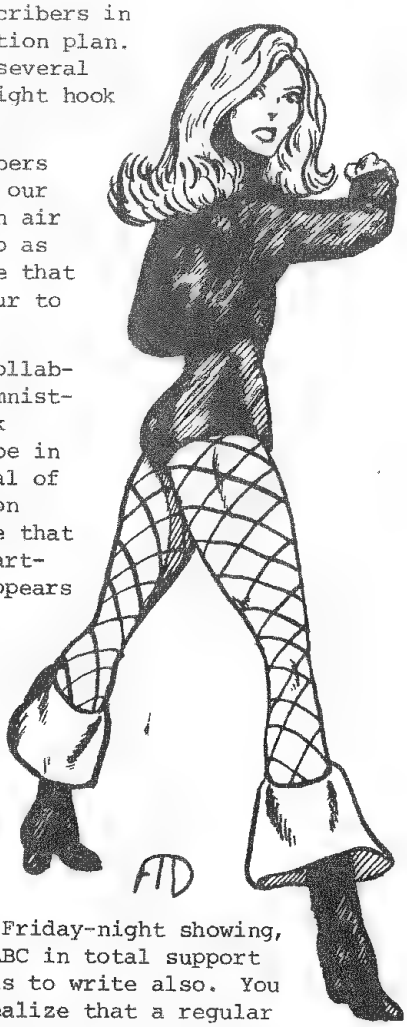
From now on, some of the pages of our AHPA Staff Bulletins will contain illos and/or copies of heroine-oriented reviews or news items which have been published elsewhere. This doesn't mean that all of you CHFC members should immediately run out and subscribe to our monthly bulletins, but if you would like to receive them and if the "donations" required would wreak no hardship on you, the offer I made in THA #7 is open to a few more people.

The new copier should also help me to coordinate the production of our THA and TA issues more fully in some respects. I'll be able to send copied samples, examples, and so forth to our staff members whenever appropriate. So the copier, which incidentally copies photographs quite nicely, should both extend and improve our overall publishing enterprise in many ways. The CHFC marches on!

Martin Lock, our official CHFC representative in Great Britain, has, on his own initiative, come up with the idea of producing a British edition of THA, and "negotiations" (as INSIDE COMICS would say) will probably be under way by the time you read this column. Martin would print this zine in England in conjunction with his own fanzine, BEMUSING MAGAZINE. It would contain about sixteen offset pages of all-new material, some by British writers and artists, some by members of our AHPA staff. We would, of course, make

the British edition available to our CHFC subscribers in America, probably including it in our subscription plan. Meanwhile, Martin would be distributing it to several hundred fans in the U.K., and he believes it might hook many of them as new CHFC members.

By the way, if any of you British subscribers would like to save money by having me send you our publications by surface mail (ship) rather than air mail, let me know. Your saving might amount to as much as 50¢ per copy, but the drawback would be that delivery of surface mail takes an estimated four to six weeks!



The Black Canary illo at the right is a collaberation between two of our staff members, columnist-illustrator Ted Delorme and author-artist Frank Travellin, whose contributions will primarily be in the form of strips for THE ADVENTURESS. Several of our AHPA artists are beginning to collaborate on illos in various ways, and I think you'll agree that the results are well worthwhile. Speaking of artwork, Scott Taylor, whose Scarlet Witch illo appears below, didn't mention it in his ad in this issue, but Ms. America is an original heroine of his own creation. You like?

This is not intended to be exactly a special "Wonder Woman issue" of THA, but the pilot film *The New Original Wonder Woman* which was shown recently by ABC-TV created such an enthusiastic response from our staff members and readers that it is receiving double coverage here. Let us know how your own reactions compare with those of our THA columnists, and even if you weren't lucky enough to catch that Friday-night showing, I hope you have written or will soon write to ABC in total support of the potential WW TV *series*. Get your friends to write also. You don't have to be a big fan of Wonder Woman to realize that a regular WW series would be a major breakthrough in TV for adventure-heroine fans in general and would also stimulate a lot of new interest in the *comics* heroines among TV viewers as a whole. So join our letter campaign!

Assuming that your subscription account is paid up, you'll soon be receiving THE ADVENTURESS #2. (As I mentioned in my last column, THA and TA will *both* be published on a *quarterly basis* from now on, at least as long as I myself continue to be the editor of the two zines.) Next, early in January, you'll get our first issue of what may become an annual HEROINE ADDICT'S ART PORTFOLIO. Let us know what you think of it.

Don't forget to meet the deadline date in sending in your bids for original inked artwork in our fourth AHPA art auction. Incidentally, if you haven't yet started your own exclusive collection of original inked illustrations, I suggest that you seriously consider doing so now. Many of our readers consider this to be a very sound investment.

We're anxious for you to see the outstanding work of the newest AHPA staff artist, Larry Heller. Larry has been assigned as regular illustrator for a series of reviews of *Golden Age* heroine comics which you'll be seeing in future THA issues. Don't be surprised if his artwork is also featured in THE ADVENTURESS and in some of our special-order zines.

You'll note that the Modesty Blaise article in this issue is a genuine trans-Atlantic collaboration. Martin Lock wrote the very informative text, Mercy Van Vlack produced the illos, and Carol Strickland handled the layout for publication. (And we're happy to say that the Postal Service handled the flow of material flawlessly. Those mailmen will do anything to get a Christmas present.) That reminds me, I have four different imported Modesty Blaise books for sale at $2 each plus parsel post costs. I'll mail them to the first people from whom I receive orders.

Getting back to the Wonder Woman theme, it's a coincidence, but an appropriate one, that this issue includes an article on the WW stage musical and related subjects by Rich Morrissey, the editor of BATMANIA and a regular in our THA lettercols. (If any of you Batman fans haven't already contacted Rich, why not write him about BATMANIA at 55 Claudette Circle, Framingham, Mass. 01701.)

This month we also salute DC's new super-heroine, Power Girl of the Super Squad. (Love that costume!)

Speaking of new heroines, don't forget to send us your votes in that category. I hope you'll also be sure to cast your votes for our members' Favorite Comics Heroine nominees. You'll see the winners in THA #9

Have a great holiday season, everyone; and then get set for a new year in which the AHPA rises to a new level of fan-oriented productivity!

SCOTT R. TAYLOR.....103 MARKHAM PL.....PORTLAND, TX 78374

The following comics, good to mint , are for sale at the prices given. Postage is 4¢ per book. Very willing to trade for wants!!!

FANTASTIC 4 #52,53..75¢,62,63..60¢,78,80,81, 82,91,95,100, 104..50¢,124,131,135,144,148, 149,150,151..25¢ JUSTICE LEAGUE #103,107,108. ..25¢ AMAZING ADVENTURES #1..$2,6..60¢ KULL #7,8..50¢ DOCTOR STRANGE #2,4..30¢ SPECTRE #5..75¢,7..50¢ THE CAT #2..50¢ AQUAMAN #16, 46(Mera-Tula star)..50¢ BRAVE & BOLD #61 (Black Canary),87(Diana Prince),90,97,102 (Titans)..50¢ E-MAN #1..$1.25 CONAN #28,31. ..50¢,40..30¢ MARVEL PREMIERE #1..$1.00 AVENGERS #26..75¢,55,64,87..50¢,125,126..25¢ ADVENTURE #323..60¢,356,372..50¢,403(LSH — Giant)..60¢,408,412,413..30¢,416(Super Females Spec)..75¢ GREEN LANTERN #32(Strong Girl)..50¢ DC SPECIAL #4..50¢

WANTED ....AVENGERS #1,2,3,4,5,8,9,10,11,13, 14,15,16,19,53,70,74,78 CONAN #1,2,3,5,6,7, 9,13 FOOM #1,2,3,4,7 TEEN TITANS #16,19 JLA #1-6,8-17,19,20,25,28,44,48 AQUAMAN #1,2,4,5 7,9,12,13,14,15,17,18,19,22-28,34,50,51,52 ★★★

Leading off in this issue's logo we have the mental misses from the major companies -- Moon Dragon and Saturn Girl, to provide the title of this column. Both are currently popular, as can be seen from their recent positions. Moon Dragon has come quite far from her beginnings as the villainous Madame MacEvil: through the Thanos battle and into the ranks of the Avengers, that "rest home for retired super-villains," as Hawkeye once called it. She has since taken quite an active role, and will probably continue to do so. Saturn Girl now has the second most favorable spot on the top of the SUPERBOY logo, and she has certainly been the most-used Legionnairess in LSH history. Of course, she had somewhat of an advantage, since she was one of the three original members and held the post of Legion Leader for two consecutive terms. She is probably about the second most respected member of the Legion (after Brainiac 5). She may be second among the whole Legion, which is understandable, but at least she's first among her fellow heroines.

* * * * *

I think that there's one very important thing that we as heroine fans must be doing. Maybe it's a little too obvious; maybe (hopefully!) you're already doing it, but I think that every member of the CHFC should be buying at least one copy of every newsstand comic that features a heroine in her own strip, either as the main feature or as a back-up, titles like WONDER WOMAN, MARVEL FEATURE (with Red Sonja), MARVEL CHILLERS (with Tigra), and any other miscellaneous comic that should crop up (maybe some issues of FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL, MARVEL PREMIERE, e MARVEL SPOTLIGHT, etc.). Letters are very important, of course, (see OPERATION: DELUGE, elsewhere in this issue), but in the end it's sales that will determine the future of starring heroines, and it's up to us to see that they survive (and maybe even increase).

* * * * *

Now it's time for audience participation, if anyone out there is so inclined. Over the past several months I have been involved in a debate with some of my correspondents over the status of Josie and the Pussycats. One party contends that the group should definitely be considered as full-fledged heroines, while the other is absolutely convinced that they are about as heroic as Betty, Veronica, and other Archie Comics girls. I must admit that I really can't make up my mind, so I'm soliciting opinions from the membership-at-large. What do the rest of you think -- are Josie, Melody, and Valerie worthy of standing with the likes of the Scarlet Witch and Hawkgirl? I'll be awaiting your replies.

* * * * *

Dwayne Best ***** 6 Nobile Lane ***** Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

WONDER WOMAN!

b. rodi

Obviously, some wise sage at ABC-TV believes in the old addage, "If at first you don't succeed, try, try again." And, after their first attempt at a Wonder Woman pilot, which re-wrote the whole legend (see THA #2) and failed because of it, they decided to stick to the comic book like a magnet for their second try. The result? "The New, Original Wonder Woman," which aired November 7, was the most entertaining 1½ hour this heroine addict has spent in front of the set all season.

Starring, as Wonder Woman, is Lynda Carter, one of the most beautiful and enchanting actresses to pop up in recent memory (she makes Cathy Lee Crosby look like yesterday's lunch). Ms. Carter has the unbeatable combination of wholesome girl-next-door facial features and incredibly well-built Amazonian body...perfect for Wonder Woman. The rest of the cast is also excellent. Two Academy Award winners, Red Buttons and Cloris Leachman, are featured.

The film faithfully follows, and, for the most part, improves upon the Wonder Woman origin story that appeared in two parts in SENSATION COMICS and ALL-STAR COMICS in 1942. Steve Trevor is wounded by a Nazi, in an air battle, and he parachutes to Paradise Island. (Here's one improvement; the film has Paradise Island located in the Bermuda Triangle, which explains the veil of secrecy surrounding the island...hopefully, the comic will adopt this improvement). Princess Diana, on a jaunt with a friend, finds him, brings him to the Amazons, and nurses him back to health. Queen Hippolyta (Cloris Leachman, one of the great actresses of our time) then has the legendary talk with Diana in which she reveals the evil in the outside world. Realizing that Trevor must be returned before he recovers fully and learns about the Amazons, Hippolyta holds a contest, and forbids Diana's entering it. The prize...the honor to escort Trevor (nicely played, surprise, surprise, by Lyle Waggoner) back. Diana joins, incognito, and in the famous bullets-and-bracelets finale of the contest, defeats her opponent. A shocked Hippolyta nonetheless reacts proudly, and gives Diana the lasso, the Invisible Plane, and the Magic Girdle (a new slant). She flies Trevor back, and takes him to the hospital herself and demands he be cared for. Then, the classic scene in which Diana walks the streets of this new world, browsing. A funny scene in a dress shop was added, which led to Diana's realization that she needs money to survive. She stops a robbery with her remarkable powers, and then meets Norman, the theatrical agent/con man who builds an act around her bullets and bracelets routine.

However, in an unusual deviation from the comic, Norman turns out to be a Nazi spy that Diana later fights. But, after making enough money from the act, she returns to Trevor's side, only to find him gone...off on an unfinished mission. Trevor himself is kidnapped, but Wonder Woman has a very exciting brawl with his secretary, a Nazi spy (properly despicable as portrayed by Stella Stevens), and, using her lasso on her, finds out where Trevor is, and how to stop the attacking Nazis. This she does in short order. The film ends with Wonder Woman establishing her new identity as Lt. Diana Prince of Military Intelligence.

rodi

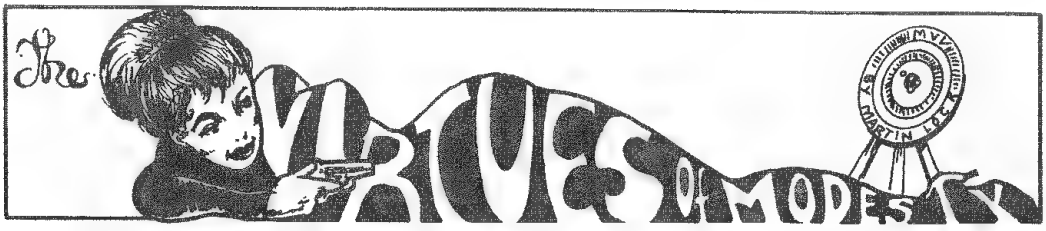
The film is full of subtly funny moments. When Diana has finally captured Marcia (the Nazi secretary), Marcia cries, "The Third Reich will go on for thousands of years!" Wonder Woman scoffs, "I heard the Greeks and the Romans say the same thing." Marcia, astonished, asked, "You HEARD that?" Other moments of humor include Cloris Leachman as a dotty Hippolyta biting her knuckles as she calls men "savages"...Diana, changing into Wonder Woman, regarding her star-spangled suit and then saluting... Norman sighing and rolling his eyes as he shoots at Wonder Woman, knowing she'll block every bullet. The humor is handled exceptionally well, straddling tongue-in-cheek humor and real suspense. It is easy to laugh out loud at some scenes and feel a nice dramatic effect in others.

The special effects are superb. We get to actually see the invisible Robot Plane...even if it does look a bit silly. And the bullets-and-bracelets segments, done with sparks flying off Diana's bracelets, are breath-taking, especially one scene in which Diana plays the game with a machine gun. It's visually stunning (as is Lynda Carter, herself). And this is the biggest advantage this film has...no matter how good the acting or scripting (and both are excellent), a Wonder Woman film couldn't be a success without good, solid action. Carter is very athletic and carries Trevor-Waggoner around with ease, and tosses Nazis about like a true Amazon.

The simplicity of plot (this is, after all, a comic-book adaption) is used to best advantage by simplifying the WW II setting...war was between good people and evil people, with no disrupting ethics involved...heroes were handsome, heroines were beautiful. Wonder Woman is made for the forties. The doctrines of freedom and sisterhood are still here, to prevent one-dimensionalism, however. Simple, but not simple-minded.

Being a die-hard WW fan, I am adamant about any mistreating of the character at all...but if I had to re-do this picture myself, I honestly wouldn't change a thing. It took ABC two tries, but they got it. The perfect Wonder Woman. And, since this TV season is so disastrous, network execs are desperate for something different. Wonder Woman fills the bill, don't you think? If so, turn to "Operation: Deluge," elswhere in this issue (ah, the joys of writing two columns!)

In closing, let me just say (and do I mean it)...Hola!

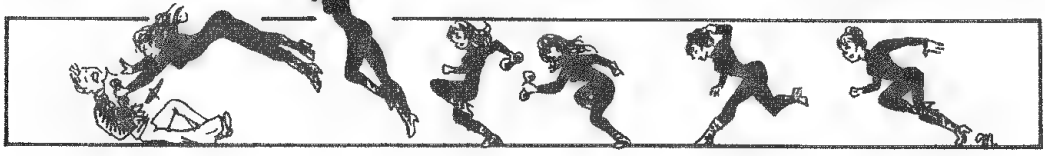


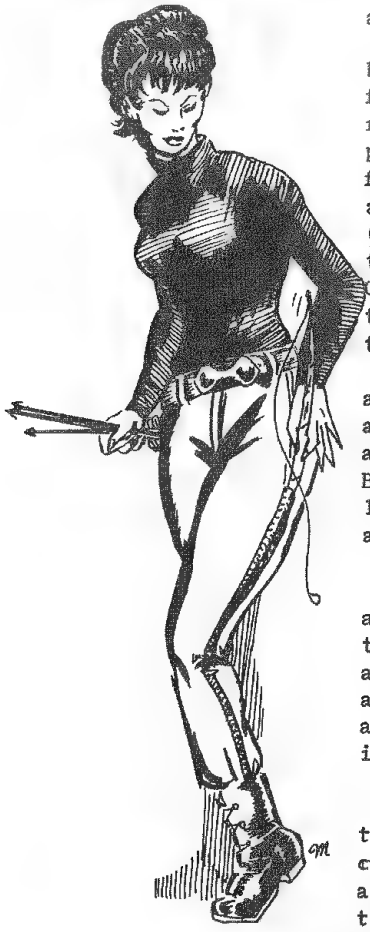
Looking through the current newspaper strips that the MENOMONEE FALLS GAZETTE and GUARDIAN publish, only two have real heroines in control; with apologies to BROOMHILDA, this ia an article about Britain's MODESTY BLAISE, a strip started in 1963 in London's EVENING STANDARD by writer Peter O'Donnell and artist the late Jim Holdaway. Within ten years, 76 newspapers or magazines in 35 countries were running it, although its longer-than-average stories (16 or 17 weeks, as opposed to the standard 10 to 12) have stopped it from gaining any long-term American publishers except the MFG.

Who is Modesty Blaise? As a small child, she emerged from the chaos of Europe in 1945, and trekked across Turkey into Persia, alone. A wild, skinny young thing with a fierce survival instinct, she moved from one refugee camp to another, working, begging, or stealing to stay alive. Before she was a teenager, she adopted and protected an old man who had been a professor; in return, he taught her -- she soaked up knowledge eagerly, and oftern stole books so that she could learn more. With a touch of irony at her unawareness of her developing body, he named this she-thing "Modesty"- her surname she chose herself; it came from one of the old man's stories of King Arthur, the knights of his round table, Merlin, and the magician's tutor, who had been named "Blaise." When she was (probably) sixteen, they took the long road to Tangier, where she was sure she could grow rich. Fifty miles short of the city, the old man died. She buried him; she wept; and she went on, and reached Tangier.

Three months later, she was spinning a roulette wheel in a club owned by a small-time gangster called Louche. When, two years later, he was killed, it was Modesty who held the gang together, and took control. Within a further two years, this small gang had become "The Network", a criminal organization operating in many countries, but only dealing in "clean" crimes, never in drugs or vice, and never operating in Britain. It was at this time that she acquired the devoted Willie Garvin, buying him out of a Saigon prison without strings, and changing him from a vicious, skilled thug into her cheerful, sharply intelligent right arm. After six years, they disbanded the Network - they were both rich enough to retire - and moved to England, where the police had nothing against them. But, after a life of action, it was impossible for two people still in their twenties to sit back and grow old gracefully, as Sir Gerald Tarrant, cheif of a British intelligence department, discovered. Although they soon became his friends, he would often ask for their help; because they are his friends, and because danger is their lifeblood, a heady spice that adds piquancey to their lives, they never refuse.

This is the background to the strip. To Willie Garvin, Modesty is "The Princess." Although he has saved her life as often as she has saved his, and the Network, in which she was his boss, has been wound up, so that there are no ties, he is devoted to her; together in





action, they act like one fighting machine, talking a verbal shorthand that has evolved in many hundreds of fights and training sessions. They fight together, enjoy themselves together, often relax together - but the relationship is purely platonic; Willie just feels it wouldn't be right for them to sleep together, perhaps because he is a notorious womanizer with a steady girlfriend (Lady Janet Gillam) and a string of girls around the world. Modesty herself was designed by Peter O'Donnell to be a heroine in charge of her fate, the lead figure in an adventure strip, as a contrast to all the hero-orientated strips around in 1963 - and now. She is a strong figure, fully able to command Willie Garvin's loyalty, yet to appeal to Tarrant's paternal feelings - and also appeal to even more basic instincts in men like British agent and artist Paul Hagan, Stephen Collier, Doctor Giles Pennyfeather, ex-pilot Quinn, and American millionaire John Dall.

Yes, Modesty Blaise is a true heroine; not a frail figure suitable for tying to railroad tracks and given to screaming and fainting, not a soap-opera actress, a nurse, or a model, but an adventurer, always ready to start a crusade against - it sounds corny, perhaps - evil and injustice.

Besides twelve years of comic-strip adventuring, drawn first by Jim Holdaway and more recently by the Spanish artist Enrique Romero, and a film Peter O'Donnell would rather was forgotten, there have been six novels and one collection of short stories featuring Blaise and Garvin. The first of these. MODESTY BLAISE (1965). was based by O'Donnell on his original script for the film, but the script was re-written and translated so often that they are completely different. In the book, Modesty and Willie have only recently "retired"; for the first time, Sir Gerald Tarrant calls on her for assistance, after doing her a substantial favor. A shipment of gold, it is rumored, is to be stolen. For diplomatic reasons, this must not happen. The villains are coldly memorable: Gabriel, McWhirter, and the efficient Mrs. Fothergill; and to avoid disaster, Modesty and Willie must let themselves be captured. The book was well-received: "highly entertaining murderous fantasy," the NEW YORKER commented, while the EVENING STANDARD itself pointed out, "what marks this out from most of its kind is the way the slaughter, the striptease and such are lit by small bright shafts of gentleness, sweetness, quiet, dry humour."

SABRETOOTH (1966) came next, with a fearsomely possible takeover of an oil state averted by Modesty; I, LUCIFER (1967) deals with a world-wide protection racket based around a talented young madman who can predict death with 80% accuracy; A TASTE FOR DEATH (1969) has the return of Gabriel, plus the grotesque killer Delicata, for inhuman goings-on at an archaeological dig in the Middle East. THE IMPOSSIBLE VIRGIN (1971) is a tale of a search for gold in Central Africa, with a man named Brunel using torture and murder to achieve his aims, plus a peculiarly inventive form of brainwashing that in the end is turned back on him. Next comes the anthology, PIECES OF MODESTY (1972), with six "capers." In "A Better Way to Die", Modesty is around to sa save a pacifist clergyman and his schoolgirl charges from South American bandits; "The Giggle-Wrecker" has Blaise and Garvin devising a most original way

of getting a scientist from East to West Berlin. Willie himself narrates "I Had a Date with Lady Janet", telling how an old adversary almost got his revenge on them at Glencroft Castle in the Highlands of Scotland; "A Perfect Night to Break Your Neck" involves Stephen Collier and his young wife from A TASTE FOR DEATH, as Modesty plots to save them from poberty - how can you give money to a friend? "Salamander Four" is a chilling industrial espionage group out for revenge on a man who beat them to a particular secret; if Waldo hadn't sent Modesty flowers when he once similarly outdid the Network, he might have died in Finland that day - but she remembered, and she worked flat out to save him. "The Soo Girl Charity" had Modesty selling flags for charity one morning - and then burglarizing a tycoon who tried to take advantage of the situation, only to get involved in a most tricky situation.

The last book so far is THE SILVER MISTRESS (1973), involving the kidnapping of Tarrant and a desperate battle with a combat-man even more skilled than Modesty. As the weekly magazine THE SPECTATOR puts it, "Modesty is one of the great desperadoes...and the books in which the adventures of herself, Willie Garvin, the man-servant Weng, and the Secret Service chief Tarrant appear are literate, pacey, exciting and captivating."

Modesty Blaise is a fighting machine; but only in a fight. She is loyal to her friends, and pleasure-loving, and feminine, and kind - a well-rounded person with a remarkable past. Peter O'Donnell has created a true adventure heroine in her. The DAILY TELEGRAPH calls her "adorable", AMERICAN PUBLISHER'S WEEKLY "fabulous, fantastic", the MANCHESTER EVENING "wonderful", while the SUN describes her and Garvin as "a duo of heroic dimensions." But it's her home paper, THE EVENING STANDARD, that puts it best; "There's just no stopping Modesty."

Long may she seek danger, excitement - and justice!

PAID AD

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Z. WELTER

BY KIRK HASTINGS

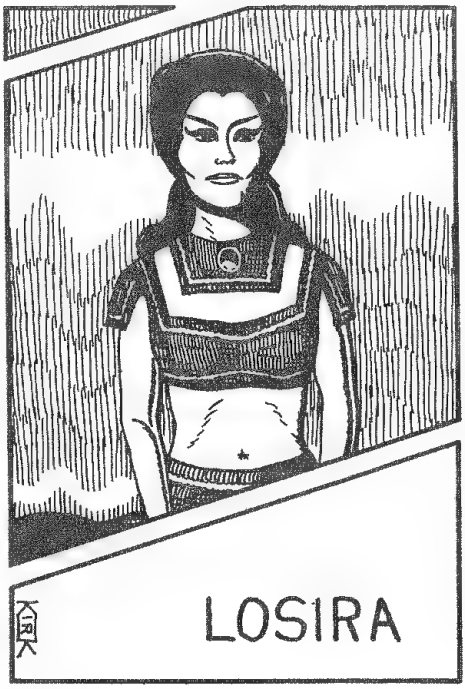
STAR TREK HEROINES

PART II --- "Star Trek Guest Stars"

The first installment of this article profiled the regular female characters appearing in the TV series STAR TREK. This installment will attempt to shed some light on the various female guest stars to appear in the science-fiction drama.

In one of the most hard-hitting episodes of STAR TREK's first season (in fact it was the second of two pilot films made for the series) a young, attractive, but stoic woman psychiatrist by the name of Dr. Elizabeth Dehner (played by Sally Kellerman) was forced to deal with awesome forces which she was hard-put to comprehend. The episode was called "Where No Man Has Gone Before", and it dealt with the events that followed when the ENTERPRISE attempted to penetrate a mysterious force-barrier at the edge of our galaxy. Weirdly affected by the unknown energy Lt. Gary Mitchell (Gary Lockwood) found that he had been endowed with seemingly unlimited psionic powers. As he became more and more powerful he began to think of himself as a god, and despite the determined efforts of Capt. Kirk and his crew to stop Mitchell Dr. Dehner, mysteriously, began to oppose him less and less. Eventually the reason became clear: Dr. Dehner had herself been affected by the force-barrier and was now beginning to mutate also. Just as it became evident that Mitchell was almost too powerful to be stopped Kirk managed to reach the last vestige of humanity left in Dr. Dehner, and she gave her life to destroy her megalomaniacal companion.

In the third season episode "That Which Survives" the ENTERPRISE crew was menaced by a beautiful, sad-eyed young woman whose touch meant instant death to anyone on the receiving end. She possessed some truly fantastic abilities, such as her "touch of death", and the ability to alter herself into a two-dimensional image and disappear. Kirk soon learned that the woman (named Losira; played by Lee Meriwether) was really only a projection created by an advanced computer in order to safeguard an outpost built by a people who had long since died of a cata-



clysmic plague, Losira included. The computer had created deadly replicas of the girl to protect the outpost from intruders, but it had done its job too well --- the replicas also possessed Losira's gentle nature, and it was this regret at killing that bought Kirk and his men the time needed to destroy the computer. At the episode's end Kirk and Spock learned all this from a visual tape of Losira, where she explained what had happened to her and her people. Spock, in reply to a statement by Dr. McCoy that Losira was beautiful, said: "Beauty is transitory, Doctor --- however, she was evidently highly intelligent." Kirk's reply? After staring for a moment at the now frozen projection of Losira, he said: "I don't agree with you, Mr. Spock. Beauty --- survives."

An episode done in a haunting, fairytale-like style, also in STAR TREK's third season, was the program called "The Empath". Here Kirk, Spock, and McCoy came together with a frail, mute young girl (whom McCoy dubbed "Gem"; played by Kathryn Hays) who possessed the power to physically sense and feel the emotions of people close to her, sometimes to such an extent that she could actually "absorb" another's injuries onto her own body, then instantly "cure" herself of them. Kirk and his officers were subjected to various appalling tortures by two giant-headed aliens called Vians as part of a weird "test" for Gem's benefit --- a test she had to pass to save her entire race from death when their planet's sun went nova. One of the most meaningful scenes of the episode was one where Gem touched the shoulder of the unemotional Spock, to find out for herself what he was all about. A warm smile touched her face as she did so.

* * *

Unfortunately, space does not permit me to profile more of the many fascinating females to guest-star in STAR TREK. However, if enough CHFC members express to me an interest in my continuing this series, I would be happy to profile other characters such as Lt. Mira Romaine, Vina, Miri, and others in future articles. If you wish to express <u>your</u> opinion on this, you can reach me at:

216 W. Burk Avenue
Wildwood, N.J. 08260

Thank you!

HEROINE * PROFILE

VAMPIRELLA: A PRIMER

Vampirella is an enigma of sorts. With typical publishing-house sensationalism, Warren Publishing Co. totes her as "Debutante of Drakulon, vamp of the veins, and artisan of the arteries! VAMPIRELLA! - Princess of Drakulon! VAMPIRELLA! - She hobnobs with Dracula himself! VAMPIRELLA! - She travels the world with Dr. Van Helsing in search of justice for herself, and all those WHO CRAVE TO DRINK HUMAN BLOOD!"

A little more accurate (and a little less grotesque) is the heroine's OWN description of herself: "I am from the world called Drakulon. I am of the race, the Vampyr. I have the God-given ability to evolve my human form into that of a winged animal. Like all my race, I need nourishment from the once-flowing waters of Drakulon...or the perfect equivalent...mammalian blood. I am alien to Planet Earth. Yet I am no monster of the night, no raging fiend of frightened superstition. I am the last of my kind. I carry the melancholy memory of a starcrossed world. I am VAMPIRELLA."

Drakulon was a futuristic planet (like Krypton) which died when it's Creatone Layer disintegrated due to chemical waste, exposing the Planet to unchecked radiation from it's two suns. Before long, Drakulon's blood-like waters dried up. Life shrivelled and disappeared.

The name "Vampyr", Vampi explains, meant "gentle people, kind of heart." This was their undoing. The Vampyr could have prolonged their existance by killing the planet's wildlife for the blood they needed, but they wouldn't do it...even to survive. Recalls Vampirella:

"I had a will to exist. This set me apart from the rest of my world. When the scientists foretold the approaching death of our planet, I alone dared to survive..."

"...A Drakulon is allowed only to live in harmony with nature. To live outside that code is to live in shame worse than extinction. I chose shame. But it was NOT shame. Simply sorrow. I lived when my race died. To live with the memory that such beauty is no more...THAT is the sorrow."

Realizing that there was nothing left for her on Drakulon, now a dead planet, Vampi came to Earth. She had escaped the stigma of being a shamed Drakulonne, but she found a new stigma awaiting her on Earth...that of the monster. Vampirella was forced to face the fact that, on Earth, she was destined to be hunted, and feared...the word "vampyr" had a different meaning on Earth.

Vampi had some minor victories... she succeeded in becoming friends with her most skillful pursuer, Conrad Van Helsing, whose ancestor had hunted Dracula himself. Vampi, by way of Conrad's son Adam, who loves Vampi, showed him that she wasn't a monster...only a terribly lonely, misunderstood girl. The Van Helsings helped Vampi by giving her a blood substitute serum to help her control her need for human blood.

Vampi even got a job, of sorts. She met a second-rate magician who was down on his luck, named Pendragon. With Vampi and her "God-given ability" in his act, they became famous enough to tour Europe, performing.

However, as is the case with many tragic heroines, whatever Vampi loves...is destroyed. Conrad is dead, Pendragon is dying, and Adam is in prison. Vampi does not understand why, and, left alone, without her serum, she has been forced back to the life she led while originally on Earth...being forced to often kill human beings to survive.

However, Vampi recently found a victim in a young girl who had gone mad after murdering her mother. Vampi, after killing the madwoman, resolved that "...death is a better thing for some people than life...For lack of a better word, call it mercy-killing. I see now that if I must survive in a world that is not my own...if I must take human life...then I will take only those lives that will be the better for it. And may God forgive me for what I must do."

Vampi, then, is stranded on a planet which considers her, perhaps correctly, a monster...and her only concern is survival. A sad fate for a girl who once said, "I survive. I live. Trying to reestablish that gentleness that was lost forever. I WILL survive, but not selfishly. I will try to remember...my heritage, and the goodness it stood for. Remembering the definition of my name...I am the last of my kind. I am VAMPIRELLA."

- Bob Rodi

Dear Al,

There wasn't a single article in THA #7 that I disliked - I'd make a terrible critic - but I particularly went for the Heroine Hotline and the Star Trek article. I'm glad Lt. Uhura's to be promoted. I've cherished an affection for her ever since the episode in which Mr. Sulu, waving a sword, proclaimed, "I will protect you, fair maiden!" and she answered, "Sorry, neither," and clocked him one. I maintain, too, that she's the only woman in the crew (that we've seen) who has any chance at all of landing Mr. Spock.

Kathleen Glancy
Edinburgh, Scotland

She clocked *him one? Hmmm. -A.T.*

Dear Al,

I greatly enjoyed reading THA and THE ADVENTURESS. Shamrock and Pixie were excellent. I liked the plot, the subtle twists, the realism. I prefer strips and like [humanly-] skilled heroines who don't always win.

I did not enjoy Alix & Illesone, Mistress Of Kung-Fu, or Skull Goddess, but I really enjoyed your Shamrock & Pixie script - also the artwork depicting them in tight spots.

Thank you for a most professional magazine. I think Tom O'Reilly's artwork is outstanding. I enclose a $10 check to insure membership.

By the way, I would enjoy a plot similar to Shamrock & Pixie's "Crime Wave" using Golden Age heroines like Black Cat, Black Canary, Phantom Lady, Lady Luck, etc.

Bob Gonzales
Los Angeles, Calif.

I've never liked stories in which the hero or heroine never loses a battle either, Bob. No suspense; no realism there. We'll let you know when the first of our series of The FURTHER Adventures Of Shamrock & Pixie *become available for special order. I feel sure you'll love them.*

We're not going to use the comics heroines themselves, partly because of potential copyright problems and partly because we prefer our own original characters for the roles we have in mind. Some of these characters may, however, remind you a good deal of such favorites as Black Cat and Wonder Girl.

Thanks for your several enthusiastic letters and suggestions. Keep 'em coming, Bob - and others! -A.T.

Dear Al,

I got THA #7 this afternoon, and rather than taking it apart like I'm inclined to do, I'll just comment on what I consider to be important.

As usual, your artists never cease to amaze me with the covers! Rodi's some artist!

Star Trek Heroines: At last! Something on Star Trek after all these fruitless months. Very well written. I can't agree, though, about Kirk's opinions on the early TV heroines of the middle-late 'sixties. What about Barbara Bain in *Mission: Impossible*? Surely the character she played was more than your typical situation-comedy housewife!

THA's going to become quarterly? God, do you realize what that means? Twiddling thumbs for every three-month period!

I don't think too much of the "egg-cup" controversy with the Valkyrie. Perhaps she does need to have something improved on her costume.

Can hardly wait for the next publications to come our way!

Gary L. Warren
Lubbock, Texas

I don't think you'll have too much time for twiddling, Gary. You'll be

thumbing through no less than ten full-scale zines (including the new fully-illustrated directory of hundreds of comics heroines and villainesses!) which we have scheduled for AHPA publication during 1976, not to mention the various "extras" which we'll also offer. -A.T.

Dear Al,

You say the total [overseas] charge for THA and THE ADVENTURESS is $1.50 each. Therefore, I enclose $3 for sample issues of both.

Lois Lane, Supergirl, and Zatanna, along with Shadow Lass, are tops. Is there a Lois or Schaffenberger fan club? Can anyone offer originals (or photocopies, if it is allowable to ask) of the story "Supercourtship Of Lois Lane" (in issue 4) and stories from LL 1, 3, 4, 9, 10, 11, or 13 and cover illustrations of LL 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 13, or 15? I am also after SUPERGIRL #1 and #6.

Michael Godwin
Caterham, England

Well, now that you've snuck a free want ad into the lettercol, I might as well complete it by giving our readers your address: Caterham School, Harestone Valley Road, Caterham, SY, CR3 6YA, England. Maybe someone will come up with what you're looking for. Now let's hear from you on some other subjects. -A.T.

Dear Al,

In THA #4 "The Reel-Live Heroine" by Tom O'Reilly Errata. Although Francis Gifford did play a role of Nyoka The Jungle Girl, the 1941 title was *Jungle Girl*, not *Jungle Queen*. She played a character named Nyoka *Meridith*. Most of the facts related to this movie are as stated in the article. However, this serial had nothing to do with Fawcett's NYOKA THE JUNGLE GIRL COMICS. This comic was based on a later serial *The Perils Of Nyoka* (1942) starring Kay Aldrich in the role of Nyoka *Gordon*.

The comic-book Nyoka started out in a Fawcett one-shot THE JUNGLE GIRL before appearing in MASTER or her own title. Incidentally, the comic book's Nyoka wore the same costume worn by the serial Nyoka, not the miniskirt illustrated and worn by Francis Gifford.

* * * WANTED * * *

DOLLS:

IDEAL'S Captain Action, Supergirl, Batgirl, Mera, and Wonder Woman. These dolls are 11 inches tall and were made by Ideal, not Mego, and distributed through Sears & Roebuck.

JAMES BOND (manufacturer not known) and HASBROS' SOLDIERS OF THE WORLD (German, USSR, French, and Japanese.) Accessories O.K. if you have 'em -- must be authentic! If you don't have the accessories -- don't worry!

Write to: Lynne Pope
28 Topeka
San Jose
Calif. 95128

I must say THA has been quite useful to me. Keep up the good work. Both Dwayne Best and Ted Delorme have said your heroine directory is definitely first rate.

Richard J. Hanlon
Minneapolis, Minn.

Dear Al,

I just received my eagerly anticipated copy of THA #7, and it was definitely worth the anticipation. There my drawing was for all to see, excellently inked by Miss Strickland, and my name ranked up there on page 3 with your regular artists. Thanks again for printing my drawing.

Michael Price
Santee, Calif.

Your contest-winning pencilling was popular with our readers, Mike. Here is another of your drawings, inked this time by Tom O'Reilly. I'm glad to hear you liked the prize you received for your winning new costume design.
- A.T.

THIS ONE
by
mantis

as told to

Jeff Thompson

The story of this one's life? It had a nebulous beginning, and this one does not believe that it will have an ending. The only phase of her life that is definite is her fleeting yet meaningful association with a bizarre assemblage of superhumans, mutants, and an android: The Avengers.

When this one and her love, the Swordsman, first came to the Avengers, she was reluctant to divulge her background. There were a god and a chieftain among their ranks—what was a mere Vietnamese waif as I compared to Thor and the Black Panther? Immediately upon my arrival in New York, I gained the dubious approval and friendship of the beautiful mutant who called herself Wanda, the Scarlet Witch, little knowing that our relationship soon would contort into bitter rivalry. My man, the Swordsman, actually became a member of the Avengers, but I did not. This one was merely a houseguest at Avengers' Mansion and a companion to the assemblers on their perilous encounters with villains as well as other heroes.

The "other heroes" of which this one spoke were Doctor Strange, the Hulk, the Sub-Mariner, the Silver Surfer, the Valkyrie, and Hawkeye—a motley team self-dubbed The Defenders. A gross lack of communication between the Avengers and the Defenders resulted in a dreadful, dimension-spanning battle between them. As for this one's humble role in the cosmic joust, she aided T'Challa, the African Avenger also known as the Black Panther, in a brief skirmish with Doctor Strange, master of the mystic arts. Later, when the malevolent forces behind the Avengers-Defenders conflict, Dormammu and Loki, merged this dimension with Dormammu's, this one, along with Captain America, the Swordsman, the Black Panther, and the intriguing android known as the Vision, became stranded in a quicksand bog conjured by Dormammu, and it was actually the Scarlet Witch who was the victor that day.

This one was not always that ineffectual in combat alongside the Avengers, however. During my tenure with them, I employed my martial arts abilities as well as my empathic and cosmic awarenesses to fell the Lion God, Star-Stalker, Thanos (alongside Captain Marvel), Klaw, Solarr, Nuklo, Ultron-7, the Titanium Man, the Radioactive Man, the Crimson Dynamo, the Slasher, Midnight, and my greatest foes, the crime cartel Zodiac and that plunderer

of time, Kang.

Taurus, the leader of the dozen-member costumed gang called Zodiac, hurled this one while unconscious off of the World Trade Center, but it was the scarlet-pigmented synthezoid known as the Vision who saved her. I later returned the favor by apprehending a Zodiac member when the Vision's uncanny computer mind temporarily malfunctioned at a crucial moment. Perhaps that was when I first recognized a feeling for the Vision which I mistakenly called love. The Scarlet Witch, who loved the Vision, had hugged this one and assured her that we would be friends after she had defended Wanda from some human tormentors upon my arrival in Gotham. Later, however, Wanda loathed me and regarded me as an intruder even though the Vision never responded to my overtures. Another Avenger who was hurt by this one's infatuation with the Vision was her former suitor, the Swordsman. He was terribly scarred when I heartlessly told him that I loved him no longer. When he died a hero's death—protecting me from Kang—I was filled with genuine grief and a realization that it was he whom I actually loved. I thought then that I could never make amends with the Swordsman—but I was wrong!

This one received a startling and incredible revelation from Libra, a member of Zodiac, after the gang had been apprehended. The blindfolded Libra claimed that he was this one's father! My vague recollection of my childhood painted a grim picture of a Saigon slum, but the man called Libra drastically contradicted that picture!

Libra's story was that in 1953 he was a mercenary soldier in the French forces in Viet Nam. He met a lovely native woman named Lua and they were married, despite the violent protests of Lua's brother, Monsieur Khruul, who was Saigon's underworld kingpin. Lua, her husband, and their newborn daughter fled from hamlet to hamlet, dodging Khruul's attacks for a while. Ultimately, Khruul's hatred ended Lua's life and blinded Libra. Libra, his daughter in his arms, stumbled through the jungle until he came upon the lush temple of the alien Priests of Pama. The benevolent priests took the female infant under their collective wing and trained her mind and body to perfection, virtually worshipping her all the while. Libra claimed that that one was this one! This one remembered none of what Libra maintained. Which heritage was correct: an orphan educated in the streets or a girl cloistered in the domain of priests? (This one was not the only Avenger finding himself at that time; shortly thereafter, the Scarlet Witch discovered her and Quicksilver's long-lost parents to be two former super-heroes, The Whizzer and Miss America; and the Vision learned that his red-skinned, android body once had been the frame of another man-made being—the original Human Torch.

This one's final adventure with the mighty Avengers was one which radically altered her life—a battle called the Kang War. Kang was a being from the distant future who invaded 1975 because he had discovered that a woman currently associated with the Avengers—the Scarlet Witch, Agatha Harkness, Moon Dragon, or this one—was to become the Celestial Madonna. At the same time, Immortus, the master of time, endowed me with a Synchro-Staff which enlightened me to the histories of two alien races—the warring Kree (from whom Captain Marvel descended) and the pacifistic, chlorophyllic

Cotati. At first this one did not understand what a race of warriors and a race of tree-people had to do with her; then she learned that she was to become the mysterious Celestial Madonna and that, in order to become the Madonna, she was to marry the eldest Cotati tree, whose spirit was made manifest in the reanimated, glowing-green body of the Swordsman, her true love.

Immortus conducted a double marriage service for the Vision and the Scarlet Witch and for this one and the Cotatian. Then the Cotatian and this one assumed a state of pure energy and began happy new lives as the Celestial Madonna and the elder Cotatian, and also as Mantis and the Swordsman—lives that will endure for millenia.

NEXT ISSUE: ZEPHYR

Jeff Thompson
6807 Pennywell Drive
Nashville, Tennessee
37205

OPERATION: DELUGE

bob rodi

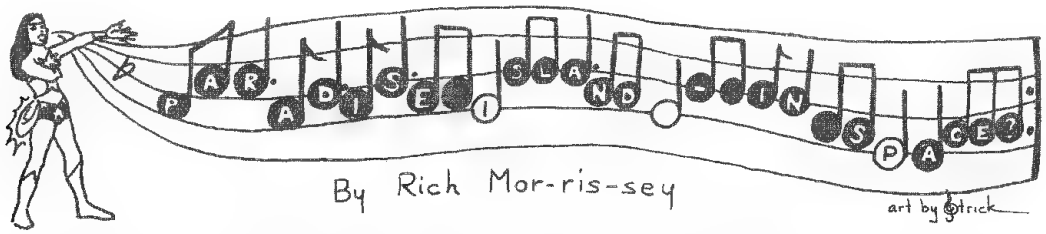
The Wonder Woman television pilot, "the New, Original Wonder Woman," finally appeared Nov. 7 on ABC. (See the review of this film in the TV Heroines column, elsewhere in this issue.) NOW is the time for a deluge. ABC traditionally has a good number of cancellations at this time, and in January, and I have heard that the WW pilot in question is seriously being considered as a replacement. As I write this, CBS and NBC have begun their cancellations, but not ABC.

Continuing the campaign Editor Al Tanner initiated, WRITE as soon as possible and voice your approval of this Wonder Woman pilot as a series. The address is: WONDER WOMAN, c/o ABC-TV, 4151 Prospect Avenue, Hollywood, California, 90028. With a load of nation-scanning letters, all expressing interest in Wonder Woman as a series, ABC may be a little more eager to fit the Amazing Amazon into it's mid-season schedule. If you want to see Wonder Woman in the winter ABC line-up (and if you don't, why are you reading this fanzine?), don't hesitate...WRITE!

Suggestion Dept: Dwayne Best offers Hawkgirl as a candidate for this column...and she certainly deserves it. Hawkgirl is a much sinned-against heroine. When Hawkman left Earth in JLA #109, she was was nowhere in evidence, even though she left with him. And, since Hawkman's return, Hawkgirl has only been in costume for one adventure...the very latest, in DETECTIVE COMICS #455. And, though that sounds promising, don't get your hopes too high...the Hawkman strip is being dropped from DETECTIVE. With FIRST ISSUE SPECIAL cancelled with #13, the only hope for Hawkman and Hawkgirl is a three-issue tryout or something along those lines. Green Arrow and Black Canary are getting that opportunity...why not Carter and Shayera? It's up to you to get them there, though...so write!

It seems that Marvel has taken one heroine (Greer Nelson, the Cat) and split her into two heroines...a practice that should meet with the approval of most heroine addicts. I know I like it. Greer Nelson is, as we all know by now, starring in MARVEL CHILLERS as Tigra the Were-Woman... and it is quite possibly the best heroine strip around. Meanwhile, Patsy Walker, late of her own teen-romance-comedy title, found the old Cat uniform, and donned it to become the Hellcat. Hellcat is fighting with the Avengers these days, and she's quite good...write in and ask for her as a permanent member of the Avengers.

LOOSE LIPS LICK STAMPS! (?) Hola...



A friend of mine in the comic industry recently predicted that the currently-increasing interest in adapting comic book characters to other media would enable both National and Marvel to coast for several years on royalties alone. Even before any such adaptations in this decade - with the notable exception of the Captain Marvel TV series - have been particularly successful, the characters already seem to be getting snapped up in droves. Although I doubt all the plans will come to fruition - I'm not making any bets that we'll ever actually see the proposed Black Widow and Aquaman TV series, or the Hulk movie that's been "in preparation" for years - some of them are already well under way - the Superman screenplay by Mario Puzo and E. Nelson Bridwell is in full swing, and Brian Clemens' Spider-Man screenplay and William Freidkin's Spirit TV movie were also active projects the last I heard.

And not long ago - on June 14, 1975 to be exact - Wonder Woman became the second comic book character to be adapted to still another medium: the stage musical. (Of course, the first was Superman in the 1966 Broadway musical that was badly mangled on television last fall.) Sidra Gay Cohn, the writer and director, had been using improvisations from comic books in the acting workshops she directs at Lesley College - Superman and Batman, at first, but then she realized they left nothing for the girls. Then she discovered Wonder Woman, and was intrigued by the character - especially after MS. magazine did its article on her.

It was then that Sidra decided to write a musical about the character - so she got permission from DC and set to work. The final play ran slightly over an hour of dialogue and lyrics, which were set to music by Tom Boss. It was performed for the first (and second) time on the aforementioned Flag Day (quite appropriate, considering Wonder Woman's costurme) at the Brookline, Massachusetts high school - but most of the cast members were members of local repertory companies.

A few liberties were taken with the original character. In the story, set a century or so in the future, astronaut and science writer Steve Trevor (Tim Shea) lands on an asteroid settled by ancient Amazons. They help him repair his damaged ship, and send Princess Diana (Linda Tremont) back to Earth with him, as Wonder Woman, to deliver the Amazon message.

They land at Holliday College, only to find that the entire student body of this girls' school is under the mental control of Dr. Psycho (P.D. Seltzer), who is determined to mold them into "mindless and spineless" secretaries. But Wonder Woman gives them a pep talk, and a demonstration of Amazon abilitites in the long-unused school gym - eventually enabling them to break free of Psycho's control. The Holliday girls join with Wonder Woman and Steve just in time to prevent Dr. Psycho and his assistant, Vladimir (Andrea Harding - who doubled as Queen Hippolyte!) from extending their control to the entire

world - and sentence the villains to a long stretch of typing!

As can be seen, everything was not taken entirely seriously - but it wasn't exactly the camp style of the old Batman TV show, either. Sidra admits that she loved that series, but adds, "Wonder Woman and her message must be taken seriously - the comedy should be restricted to the supporting characters. Actually, it came out more campy that I'd intended because of the influence of my assistant direstors." I think Sidra's goal is something much closer to the musical comedy tradition of the original Superman musical than the deliberate camp of the Batman series.

And in a great many ways, this musical was closer to the original concept of Wonder Woman than any new story that's appeared since "Charles Moulton" died. Etta Candy (the six-foot wrestler she originally was, perhaps for casting reasons) and the Holliday girls, after all, were always played for laughs. The feminist message was the same as in the Moulton era, as was the strong accent on mythology - matters certainly never became as ridiculous as they did (presumably unintentionally) under Moulton's successor, Robert Kanigher. Even Wonder Woman's costume was the original, skirted model. Indeed, there was a certain amount of sexual symbolism throughout the play - but even this was well within the spirit of the original comics. Although bitterly attacked by sexist critics like Fredric Wertham, the fact that a woman can be strong and independent and still attract members of the opposite sex is really harmless - and anything but demeaning to women.

Sidra received a letter from a DC editor who reviewed the script prior to the production of the play and who took her to task for the inconsistencies. "How dare you put Paradise Island in space?" he asked. I can sympathize, but after all, adapting a character to another medium is almost impossible without taking some liberties - especially when, as here, the origin is included. Unless it's sone exactly so, it would be inaccurate anyway - and certainly Sidra's version is much more authentic than John D.F. Black's telep y aired by ABC last year. As she points out, Wonder Woman's original origin - which is still followed today - had Steve Trevor as an American soldier downed by Nazis, which is hardly appropriate for a "contemporary" heroine - so, since the era had to be changed anyway, why not the future? I might add that Wonder Woman is probably DC's most inconsistent character when her full life-span is considered and that any company that makes the idealistic Blackhawks into mercenaries and turns Captain Jim Corrigan of Gateway City into a psychopathic lieutenant in New York is not in the best of positions to argue about continuity in other media!

In any case, Sidra's videotape of the musical was well-received at National, and she was given permission to continue with her version of the character. She's now working on a longer, somewhat more serious version - with more songs and the addition of a (more definitely) female assistant to Dr. Psycho. She writes, "We are in negotiation with several producers, two of which are women, to try and raise the money for a large scale production. Great Hera, we might get our heroine to N.Y!" Let's hope it does come to pass...

'The Bionic Woman'

By Kirk Hastings

Were you under the impression that "Wonder Woman" was TV's first live super-heroine? Or perhaps "Isis"?

Well, if you answered either one of these two women, look again! TV's first SUPER-heroine is a title reserved for a lovely lass by the name of Jaime Sommers, otherwise known as The Bionic Woman!

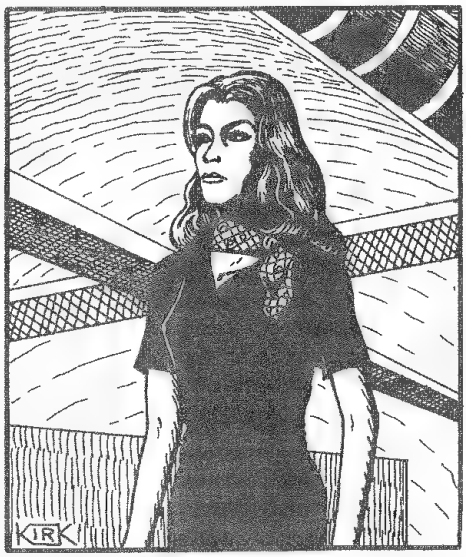
On Sunday, March 16, 1975, the TV series THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN (starring Lee Majors as Steve Austin, mutilated test-pilot-turned-superman) presented Part I of a two-part episode that, in this writer's opinion, was the most moving story ever presented on the series. It concerned Steve Austin's meeting with an old high school sweetheart, and the re-blossoming of their romance after so many years. But tragedy struck when Jaime (played excellently by Lindsay Wagner) suffered a serious accident while sky-diving with Steve. The pair's short reunion was over, unless somehow Jaime's crushed and broken body could be repaired --- repaired in the same way Steve's body was, when he suffered a similar accident while testing a new type of aircraft. The virtual rebuilding of the body with mechanical parts, using the newly-developing science known as "Bionics" (replacing human tissue with mechanical parts patterned after those tissues.) Finally Steve convinced his boss to approve the drastic measure, and Jaime Sommers became the second person in the world that was half-human, half-robot. With her artificial legs Jaime found that she could run in excess of 40 miles per hour, and leap astounding heights. Her one artificial arm enabled her to perform great feats of strength no man could match. And her crushed eardrum had been replaced with an artificial hearing device that could hear sounds far above and far below the range of ordinary humans. She was indeed a superwoman.

But Jaime's only ambition (after her initial shock at becoming bionic) was to lead a normal, happy life as Steve's wife, and plans were made for their impending wedding. But again, fate (or the scriptwriter) decreed that that was not to be. Jaime's body began to reject her bionic parts, causing a tumor to form near her ear adjacent to the brain, causing her excruciating pain. The second part of the drama ended as Steve, standing by helplessly, watched Jaime finally die on the operating table. TV's first "superwoman" was dead.

Or was she?

The producers of THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN were totally

flabbergasted at the mountains of protest mail that flooded their studio after the airing of "The Bionic Woman". And even more surprising --- on the strength of that single two-part episode, THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN leaped up in the Neilson ratings to the No. 3 position, when up to that time it had only been barely holding its own against CHER and THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF DISNEY. It didn't take the producers long to figure out one thing --- Jaime Sommers must live again!



EDITOR'S NOTE: During the few days since this article was written ABC has said that The Bionic Woman will indeed make a "second return" - this time in a series of her own!

The new series will star Lindsay Wagner in the title role (natch!) as the network makes a move in obvious acknowledgment of her popularity in the earlier Six Million Dollar Man shows. We understand it's slated to begin in January.

Kirk was anxious that we give you this news in case you haven't heard.

And return she did. On August 31 and September 7, 1975 "The Bionic Woman" was rerun --- but at the end of the second episode a NEW blurb appeared, reading "To Be Continued"! The following week (September 14) the season premiere of THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN began with the precedent-shattering "Return of the Bionic Woman", another two-part episode written again by Kenneth Johnson, who wrote "The Bionic Woman"! In these two shows Steve discovers that, immediately after he had left the operating room where Jaime had died, Jaime had been put into a "frozen" state (using the science of Cryogenics) so that there would be no tissue damage while the surgeons continued the operation to remove the tumor from Jaime's ear. Shortly thereafter the girl was then resuscitated with electric shock therapy, once again fully alive! There was only one post-operative problem, however --- between the time Jaime had "died" and she had been put into a frozen state some slight brain damage had occurred, completely erasing all her past memories. She no longer remembered who she was --- or who Steve was. And it was found that attempts to restimulate her memory caused also the memories of the great pain she had suffered to resurface, which was potentially dangerous for her. Part two of "The Return of the Bionic Woman" ended with, again in this writer's opinion, a very unsatisfying epilogue, with no resolving of any of the issues at hand. Still unable to remember Steve or her past life, Jaime was sent to a special hospital complex in Colorado for "peace and rest". Thus once again the charming Jaime Sommers passed out of Steve Austin's life, and our TV sets. At least the second time around the producers were a little more subtle about the whole thing.

But the story of Jaime Sommers is not ended yet --- ever since the two-part "Bionic Woman" episode THE SIX MILLION DOLLAR MAN has steadfastly remained in the 3rd and 4th positions in the national ratings. Is it possible that the nation is still watching, perhaps anxiously awaiting . . .

"The SECOND Return of the Bionic Woman"?

ARTIST'S FORUM

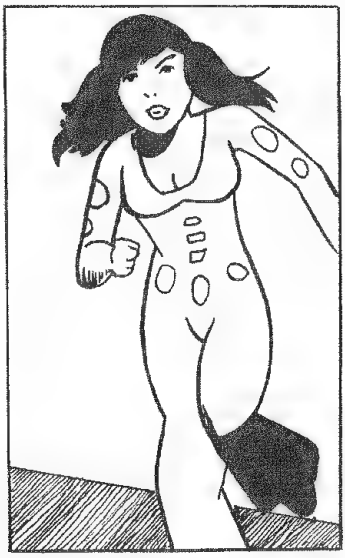
THE FINE ART OF SWIPING

This issue's column deals with swiping as it is used in comics. Needless to say, we've all caught most of our favorite artists at swiping, so we know that it is used.

Chris Padavano submitted his suggestions for me to use. He points out the "obvious" swipes that are nearly copies of what they are swiped from. He supplied these two drawings to show his ideas on swiping. "This is an exact tracing of the Melba story in Lois Lane #132, pg.2, last panel, art by Saaf and Colletta." (below left.)

"Change the size, the hair and the costume, adding a touch of your own style and you have Phantom Girl."

(right)



I feel that these are good ideas when you need a quick swipe for a given drawing. However, I feel that when you have an opportunity to do so, it is helpful to look up several drawings in the pose, or in a similar pose, that you need. Keep in mind that there are other sources to work from than just comics. For example, a drawing of a woman running looking back over her shoulder. Make several drawings from each source, and work with them until you think you have a good feel for that situation. You can then draw it freely on your own, in your own style, with out looking like you've taken someone elses work.

Chris also mentions that when swiping, swipe from other companies than the charicter you are drawing. Such as using a Marvel book when you are drawing Supergirl. Also, be careful not to swipe features, but to change them to match your own style.

A problem that can easily occur with swiping is combining two drawings from different perspectives; i.e. one seen from slightly below eye level and one above eye level. To see what I'm talking about, I recommend that you refer to Andrew Loomis' "Figure Drawing for all it's worth", page 35 showing these problems, and pages 36, 37, 45, and 47 showing how to prevent them. That's it for now! Write:

Artist's Forum c/o Tom Luth
2543 Sunnyside Ridge Rd.
Palos Verdes Pen., Calif. 90274

CHFC Comics Awards

NOMINEES FOR

FAVORITE COMICS HEROINE

* Black Canary * * Supergirl *

* Medusa * * Valkyrie *

* Red Sonja * * Wonder Woman *

Listed alphabetically above are the six nominees of our CHFC members for our Favorite Comics Heroine Award. We hope that some of your own personal favorites are among them.

Now comes the biggest vote we have conducted yet, for the winner in this category will be designated the current top choice of the CHFC, which is, by the nature of its objectives, the official voice of the nation's comics heroines fans. Needless to say, it's important that a great many of you participate so that we can get a true consensus of opinion. Vote for three of the six nominees as explained below.

We'll publish the results, with illustrations, in THA #9.

VOTE NOW FOR

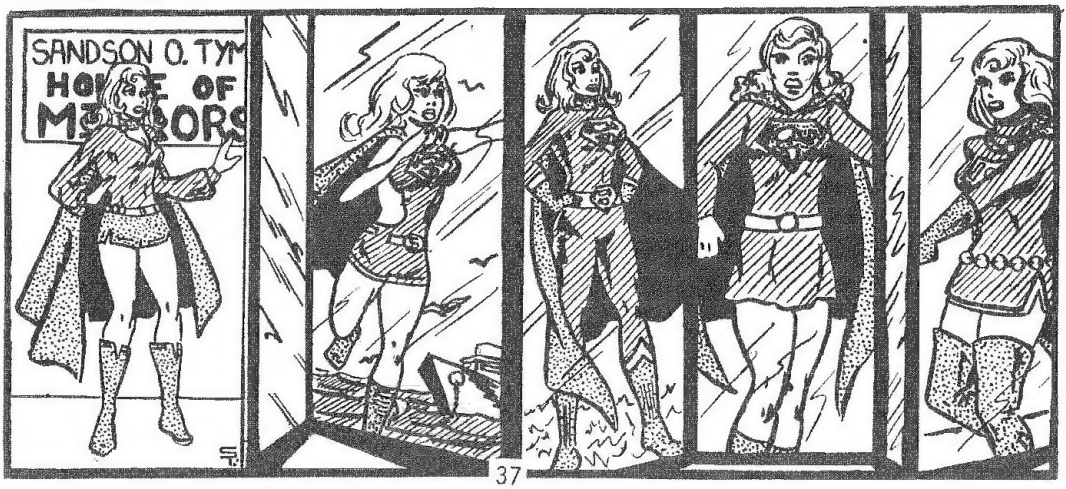
BEST NEW HEROINE OF 1975

Join us in starting what may become a interesting tradition: the selection of the best new comics heroine to appear on the scene during the past year. Since the number of new adventure heroines who made their debuts in comics published in 1975 is relatively limited, we will not ask for nominations first to narrow down the field, but will conduct the voting directly.

Vote for three heroines as explained in the rules below. AHPA department editor Dwayne Best has been appointed judge of eligibility. Candidates must be brand new characters who never appeared in print before January, 1975. A review of previous THA issues, as well as your comics collection itself, will refresh your memory and suggest plenty of good candidates. We'll announce the results in THA #9, scheduled to appear late in Febuary.

Votes in both of these categories must be reveived on or before February 1, 1976. You may name THREE choices in EACH category, but be sure to indicate clearly which is your first, second, and third choice. These will receive 5 points, 3 points, and one point respectively.

For Favorite Comics Heroine, you may vote only for candidates which have been nominated by the CHFC membership. "Write-in votes" for other (unlisted) candidates will not be counted. Votes which we receive after the announced DEADLINE date, or which name candidates that are not eligible for the category, or which are not legible and clear in intent will be invalid. invalid and not counted.



AN OPEN LETTER TO THE NEW ORIGINAL W.W. PEOPLE....

977 Mt. Vernon Dr.
Charleston, SC 29412
Stardate 7511.10

People- - -

Thank you.

For a beautiful script from former BATMAN writer Stanley Ralph Ross, in the grand old comic book style. The origin sequence was handled well, almost word-for-word from William Moulton Marston's 1942 strip. And the characterization was perfect! Evil Nazis! A lecherous old general and a red-white-and-blue (but still very human) soldier! And an innocent, naive, attractive heroine who can still hold her own against the whole crazy world!

For spending the time, effort and money to make Paradise Island believable. The scenery, the costuming, the aura of Amazon society shown here easily bested any previous versions seen in the hundreds of movies which cast the ladies in a far more barbaric personification than the men they constantly and universally despised. These girls didn't hate males; they simply didn't allow them on the island. I especially enjoyed the "Amazon Olympics;" flawless, and exactly the way we've seen it told and re-told in the pages of WONDER WOMAN.

For utilizing one of the most star-packed casts ever in a made-for-teevee movie. Ken Mars's portrayal of the Nazi Colonel Von Blasko once again demonstrates that he is one of the most versatile character actors in the business. Lyle Waggoner was type-cast as the clean-cut "All-American boy," and you were able to pull it off. Henry Gibson as the colonel's aide, Red Buttons as the greedy agent, Stella Stevens as the traitorous secretary, and Fannie Flagg as the refined Amazon doctor were all marvelous, taking their parts as seriously as possible without stretching our credibility beyond the well-known breaking point. And Lynda Carter IS Wonder Woman! But Cloris Leachman's representation of Queen Hippolyta missed the mark. Ms. Leachman is a fine dramatic actress and a talented comedian; here she was the comedian, and the regal Queen Mother suffered for it.

For not doing the easy thing, making Wonder Woman a female Batman. That show was hilarious but only once. All the rest were just follow-ups, spin-offs, rip-offs, and turn-offs. But the WONDER WOMAN movie was unique, the only faithful transition from comic page to silver screen yet! There were no extra powers, no gimmicks. Princess Diana was as natural as a crime-fighter in a funny costume could be, not a farcical insult to even kindergarten kiddies. I laughed at the humor, not at the movie.

For giving us THE NEW ORIGINAL WONDER WOMAN, the one we all remember, the one we all miss. . . .Thank you!

Sincerely,

Pat Peloquin

As you may have heard, the WONDER WOMAN movie is scheduled for a January replacement for one of the multitude of duds we've been so blessed with this season. But did you also know that the moon is scheduled to fall from the sky at 6:32 P.M. tomorrow night (5:32 Central)? In other words: Don't sit back and believe those rumors, write and make them happen (Wonder Woman I mean, not the moon)!

I would ask you to support Angela Bowie as the Black Widow too, but what studio is filming it? All we know is that Angie likes the idea and Marvel likes the idea. I like the idea too, but until someone puts the idea on celluloid, that's all it is; an idea.

Speaking of ideas that aren't going anywhere, here's one we can all have a good laugh about. Last issue I announced a list of winning bids and bidders in the THA art auctions, available for a SASE, that's right, folks, just one thin dime. Al got the info together and sent it down here. Mercy sent me some stencils and warmed up her Junior Gutenberg Do-It-Yourself Home Printing Press. And I waited.

Stephen Borer was the only reader who wanted one. Needless to say, there won't be any more lists. You won't have us to kick around anymore! Sure, we were wrong, but there's a first time for everything, right Gang? Gang??

Hey, have you ever seen that column in the newspaper where "prominent women in the community" are quoted (usually out of context, so that none of the quotes are anything even remembling coherent)? How would that be if it were in the Heroine Addict?

> Some of these House sessions are enough to drive one batty. . . BARBARA GORDON, CONGRESSWOMAN
>
> Do your Thing!. . . ALICIA MASTERS, SCULPTRESS

Yep, that's probably the way it would go. And here's the way I'll go.

KEEP 'EM FLYIN' (heroines that is)! --- Liz